



PRESS RELEASE

July 8, 2011

TO: All Media Outlets
FM: Sergeant Rich O'Neill,
President, Seattle Police Officers Guild

RE: City Attorney Files Charges Against Officer Garth Haynes

The Seattle Police Officer's Guild is outraged by the decision of City Attorney, Peter Holmes to charge Seattle Police Officer Garth Haynes with assault. The whole story has yet to be told regarding this incident and today we are exposing the whole story which is very ugly. On December 12, 2010 Officer Haynes was off duty and enjoying an evening with a friend at a nightspot in Ballard. A woman, unknown to the officer or his friend was seen leaving the club with both men's jackets. Officer Haynes went outside the club to stop the woman and retrieve the coats. The woman was initially hesitant to turn over the coats; this caused Officer Haynes to identify himself as a police officer. Three adult men who were not from Seattle and did not even know the woman brutally attacked Officer Haynes's from behind. Officer Haynes was knocked to the ground and repeatedly kicked in the head and face. Officer Haynes was able to call 911 for help. On duty officers responded and took the men into custody. Officer Haynes is seen on video stepping on one of his attackers. **This action caused no injury or complaint of injury from the suspect. Officer Haynes, on the other hand, received a black eye and was treated at the hospital for a concussion as a result of the brutal kicking that he endured.**

There is a second video related to this case that is not being released that sheds a disturbing light on the motive for the brutal attack on Officer Haynes. This video is in the case file and it shows the suspects being transported back to the precinct. During the transport the video shows the men are clearly intoxicated. They were apparently celebrating a 21st birthday. Most disturbing is that the transport video shows one of the assailants engaging in very racist comments. One of the suspects is heard saying words to the effect of, "What would you do if you saw a black man touching a white woman?" What is very shocking is that when asked, City Attorney Peter Holmes told me that he had not even seen this second video. So, here in Seattle we have an officer of color jumped from behind by three white men, brutally kicked and beaten, simply

because that officer was “touching a white woman?” And because the officer, who suffered a concussion, steps on one of his attackers, he gets charged and the racist attackers are now considered “**the victims?**” **This is simply appalling.**

This injustice cannot be ignored by the citizens of Seattle and they have a right to know the complete story. I am calling on the Seattle Police Department and the City Attorney’s Office to release this second video and I am also calling on citizens to phone the city attorney’s office at 206-684-7757 and express their outrage at this decision.

The Seattle Police Officers’ Guild is the largest police labor union in the northwest and represents all sworn Seattle Police Officers and Sergeants which includes over 1250 members

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